(c) Long-term studies are required in order to conclusively establish the impact of global warming on recession of glaciers in Himalayan region.

Forest diversion proposals

1860. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the list of forest diversion proposals received from the Government of Orissa over the last 10 years and the specific purpose for which such forest lands were sought to be diverted;

(b) the cases which are pending, the reasons therefor in each case and by when those are likely to be cleared; and

(c) the cases rejected so far along with the reasons in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected. On its receipt and compilation, the same will be laid on the table of the house.

Iron-ore mines in Goa

1861. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of iron-ore mines operating in Goa;

(b) the nature of permission granted to them for the purpose of mining;

(c) the number of mines in the State which have been issued notices under the Forest Conservation Act and other laws;

(d) the number of mines with respect to which licenses/permissions have been cancelled/revoked recently;

(e) the number of mines out of the above which have been allowed to operate by revoking the orders of cancellation;

(f) the objections, of the environmentalists against the mining activity in the State;

(g) the number of persons directly or indirectly employed in the mining industry; and

(h) the details of the present status of mining activity in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The mining activity can only be undertaken after obtaining environmental clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Ministry has, so far, granted environmental clearance to 111 iron-ore projects in Goa during the period from September 2006 to 30th November 2009.

(c) The Ministry has, so far, granted 46 forest clearances for mining of iron-ore under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in the State of Goa. However, only 23 iron-ore mines are operating after obtaining the approval to their renewal proposals at present. In respect of remaining 23 mines, the approvals granted earlier have since been expired with effect from 27.11.2007.

(d) and (e) As per the information received from the State Government, three mines have been rejected renewal permissions recently by the Director of mines and Geology, Government of Goa. Revocation of none of them has been received till date.

(f) The environmentalists are primarily raising two issues against the mining activities in the State of Goa- (i) permitting mining within one km area from the boundary of the national park/sanctuary, and (ii) granting environmental clearance to a mining lease involving both forest and non-forest areas.

(g) The Ministry does not maintain a record of such information.

(h) The Iron-ore produced in the State of Goa is of low grade having Fe content ranging between 58% and 62%, which does not have ready market in the Country. The iron ore, therefore, is exported to other countries after resorting to beneficiation. Goa exports 60% of India's Iron-Ore. During the year 2008, about 46 million tonnes of iron-ore was exported from the country.

Impact of climate change on agriculture

1862. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to assess the impact of climate change on agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has undertaken various studies on impacts, adaptation and vulnerability of Indian agriculture to climate change under the aegis of a National Network Project. The major findings include:

Temperature rise studies conducted so far indicate that rise in temperature will have effect crops, horticulture, water resources, livestock and fisheries sectors. Studies indicate that rise in winter temperature will have negative impacts on wheat yield. The apple cultivation may shift to higher elevation due to rise in temperature. Heat stress will have negative affect on milk yield of livestock. Increased surface sea temperature may cause migration of fish and changes in breeding habitat.